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AUTHOR DeLancey, Robert W.
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ABSTRACT

Designed to determine to what degree the reader's awareness of recognition of certain structural aspects of written English is a factor in reading comprehension, this measure defines four word classes (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) in syntactical or formal terms rather than in semantic terms. Each item in the test consists of two sentences: the first sentence contains nonsense words identifiable by form class; the second sentence contains a blank and the pupil is to select his answer from among four word choices. Reliability was calculated at .825, and difficulty and discrimination indices were obtained and are included in the test. [This document is one of those reviewed in The Research Instruments Project (TRIP) monograph "Measures for Research and Evaluation in the English Language Arts" to be published by the Committee on Research of the National Council of Teachers of English in cooperation with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills. A TRIP review which precedes the document lists its category (Reading), title, author, date, and age range (intermediate, junior high), and describes the instrument's purpose and physical characteristics.] (RB)

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ED 091755

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CS 201 360

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
1111 KENYON ROAD
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801

Category: Reading

Title: "Recognition of Linguistic Structures"

Author: Robert W. DeLancey

Age Range: Intermediate; Junior High

Description of the Instrument:

Purpose:- to determine to what degree the reader's awareness or recogniton of certain structural aspects of written English is a factor in his comprehension of what he reads.

Date of Construction:- 1962

Physical Description:- Four word classes (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) were selected for assessing children's awareness of the structural aspects of written language. Word classes are defined in syntactical or formal terms rather than in semantic terms. That is the word class is defined in terms of its possible environments. For example, one environment of the noun class is NV (men work). Each item in the test consists of two sentences. The first sentence contains nonsense words identifiable as to form class by syntactic patterning, inflectional contrasts, derivational contrasts,

structure word indicators or any combination of these clues. The second sentence contains a blank and from among four word choices the pupil is to select his answer. In terms of structural analysis of the two sentences and the formal characteristics of the choices presented, only one of the four words will be able to fit into the blank.

We were vadable bons, and femish lars were dirful vols.

I nopped the _____, and they fodded me.
vadable femish lars dirful

Validity, Reliability, and Normative Data:

Nonsense words were used so that form classes must be recognized from structural cues and not from lexical meaning. The root syllables for the nonsense words were chosen in terms of their ease of pronounceability. Other than the nonsense words, only a basic list of less that 150 words were used. These were conjunctions, prepositions etc. To ensure uniformity of sentence items only statement patterns were used and these were balanced in terms of

simple, compound and complex sentence types. To control for readability, a special formula which could cope with nonsense words, and devised by the author was used. Form B was constructed as comparable as possible to form A. Reliability was calcuhted by administering both forms two weeks apart. The correlation obtained between scores of both forms was .825. The norm data was obtained from 316 grade five students and 261 grade nine students. Means for these grades, respectively, were 22.63, and 31.38. Difficulty and discrimination indices were obtained and are included with the test.

Ordering Information: EDRS

Related Documents: DeLancey, Robert W. Awareness of Form Class as a Factor in Reading Comprehension. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Graduate School of Synacuse University, Synacuse, New York, 1962.

AWARENESS OF FORM CLASS AS A FACTOR IN READING COMPREHENSION

by

ROBERT W. DE LANCEY

B. Ed., Brockport State Teachers College, 1948
M. A., University of Michigan, 1950

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DISSERTATION

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate School of Syracuse University,
June, 1962

Approved by Margaret J. Early

Date May 8, 1962

RECOGNITION OF LINGUISTIC STRUCTURES: FORM A

This is a test to see how well you recognize the way words in our language work in sentences. You will find, however, that many of the "words" you meet in this test are really nonsense words. Don't spend time trying to understand what these words mean, because they don't really mean anything. Here are a few examples of these words:

bon femable pimmed verfully wams

Sometimes these nonsense words have endings such as able, ed, ly, or s added to them. Sometimes they do not.

You have a test paper and an answer sheet. Write your name in the blank on the answer sheet. DO NOT WRITE ON THE TEST PAPER. Each question on the test paper consists of two sentences and a set of four words to choose your answer from. You are to choose the word that will fit into the blank in the second sentence. Choose the word that sounds best to you. For each question you will find the same four answers on your test paper and on your answer sheet. Underline the correct word on the answer sheet. DO NOT MAKE ANY MARKS ON THE TEST PAPER.

Here is an example question without nonsense words.

Example 1: The hungry boys lifted the logs, andthe girls quickly lighted the fire.

Soon, the _____ was burning merrily.

hungry lifted quickly fire

The right answer is fire. Fire is the word that fits into the blank in the second sentence. The word fire is underlined on your answer sheet.

Here is another example, this time with nonsense words:

Example 2: A bonish dal femmed larfully.

I relled the _____ verlessly.

bonish dal femmed larfully

The right answer is dal. Underline dal on your answer sheet.

When your teacher says, "Go," turn the page and begin to work. Keep working until you have answered all 45 questions or until you are told to stop.

1. We were vadable bons, and femish lars were dirful vols.
   I nopped the _____, and they fodded me.
   vadable femish lars dirful

2. We botted, and zamous daps pimmed in the ven.
   When we were those by the _____, we were wams.
   botted zamous pimmed ven

3. When I was th fonless rel, somable Jim was the dalful fid.
   Only the _____ can zin verlessly.
   fonless rel somable dalful

4. The vadent bons were the femable lars, dirs, and vols.
   I nop the most _____ bons, but Bob fods them.
   vadent lars dirs vols

5. Two botable zams dapped and pimmed venfully.
   We wammed fonishly whenever they dapped so _____.
   botable zams pimmed venfully

6. The relary, somable dals fidded zinfully, but we didn't ver.
   Those dals have _____ vadishly, too.
   somable dals fidded zinfully

7. Several bonful fems larred dirably.
   In fact, they _____ most volishly.
   bonful fems larred dirably

8. They nopped us fodicly in that botable zam.
   Out of the _____, however, we could dap them.
   nopped fodicly botable zam

9. Some pimish vens are wams, fons, or rels.
But we do not som with such _____ ones.
pimish wams fons rels

10. We dalably zinned the verless bons.
Those femish _____ were larful vads.
dalably zinned verless bons

11. In the dir we volably nopped some fodish bots.
There, by that _____, those bots were zams.
dir volably nopped fodish

12. We dapped the pimful vens wamently, but they fonned us relfully.
Yes, we dapped _____, but they fonned.
dapped pimful wamently fonned

13. We sommed the fids dalfully, and Bill zinned verable bons.
Then they femmed us, while those _____ ones larred him.
fids dalfully verable bons

14. I vadded dirlessly, although the volic nops fodded botably.
In fact, those zamless nops fodded very _____.
vadded volic nops botably

15. A few dapful pims are venally the wamable fons.
These _____ are those which are rels.
dapful pims venally wamable

16. Dapsome Jane was the somest fid, but she was not zinful ver.
After all, only a _____ can bon.
dapsome somest fid zinful

17. When Joe was the fem of the larless vads, I was his dir.
I volled, and those _____ nopped fodishly.
fem larless vads dir

18. Al botted the zams after he dapped the pimless vens.
Before you can bot zams, you must dap the _____.
botted dapped pimless vens

19. As I wammed fonly, the relful soms fidded verfully.
I wammed, but those _____ soms dalled.
wammed fonly relful verfully

20. As the zins, the verful ones, bonned us, we femable lars vadded.
We were fems before they were verful _____.
zins bonned femable larred

21. Dirably, volicly, and nopically the fods botted those zament daps.
They were _____, but we were pims.
dirably volicly nopically daps

22. Ann vens wams fonably, and she relfully soms them.
Tom fidly dals wams, but he vens them _____, too.
vens wams fonably soms

23. The zinful vers bonned femlessly, but they larishly vadded.
We dirred those _____ when they bonned us.
zinful vers bonned larishly

24. Before we volled the nopary fods, we botted them by the zam.
The _____ dapently pims fods.
volled nopary botted zam

25. We venned wamously by the fonful rel.
We were soms, but near that _____ we were fids.
venned wamously fonful rel

26. Jim dalled the zinary vers bonfully.
Then, while he femmed us, we _____ them.
dalled zinary vers bonfully

27. Don was a larful vad, but with the dirless vols he was one nopably.
Those_____ fodded us bottishly.
larful dirless vols nopably

28. Zamlessly, John dapably pimmed the venary wam.
It was a really _____ wam because it was a fon.
zamlessly dapably venary wam

29. Don relled, but Sue sommed fidlessly in the dalful zin.
The ____, however, was a verish one.
relled fidlessly dalful zin

30. Ann was the bonnest, femest lar, and Joe was the vadable dir.
She volled, but I nopped for the _____.
bonnest femest lar vadable

31. We fod the botless zams dapfully, but Tom fems them.
He pims them, too, although he does _____ vens.
fod botless zams dapfully

32. We wamlessly fonned the relful soms after they fidded us dalishly.
They were most _____ soms.
wamlessly relful fon dalishly

33. By the zin, we were the vers while they were the bonful fems.
That ____ larred, but we vadded.
zin vers bonful fems

34. I was dirful vol of nop when he was fod.
Since he botted me from _____, I zammed him.
dirful nop was when

35. Several dapic pims venned wamly and fonously.
We relled the ___, but they didn't som us.
dapic pims venned wamly

36. The fidary dals zinned verlessly when I bonned.
They femmed me much too _____, and I larred them vadently.
fidary dals zinned verlessly

37. As I dirred the vols nopishly, the fods botted Joan.
Since those _____ were zams, they were not daps.
dirred vols nopishly botted

38. The pimful vens wammed fonfully.
We relled, but Don, sommed by those _____, fidded.
pimful vens wammed fonfully

39. Jim was a dalful zin, but the verless bons were femable lars.
We can vad by _____.
dalful verless bons femable

40. I dir volfully, and the nopable fods bot zamly.
They are very _____ fods, and I am their dap.
dir volfully nopable bot

41. Pimful Jack venlessly wammed us, but he fonned us relently, too.
In fact, before he wammed us, he _____ us somishly.
pimful venlessly fonned relently

42. As we fidded dalfully, the zins verred by the bon.
In fact, they _____ most fementlly.
dalfully zins verred bon

43. We femmed the larless vads which dirred the vols nopively.
They fodded, but those vads dirred quite _____.
femmed larless dirred nopively

44. I botted the zam daplessly as the pims venned it.
Although those _____ venned wamly, they fonned.
botted daplessly pims venned

45. Many relful soms are fidable dals or zins.
As they ver, the _____ soms bon femlessly.
relful soms dals zins

RECOGNITION OF LINGUISTIC STRUCTURES: FORM A ANSWER SHEET

Name _____ Date _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ SChool _____

Example: (1) hungry lifted quickly fire

Example: (2) bonish dal femmed larrully

1. vadable femish lars dirful
2. botted zamous pimmed ven
3. fonless rel somable dalful
4. vadent lars dirs vols
5. botable zams pimmed venfully
6. somable dals fidded zinfully
7. bonful fems larred dirably
8. nopped fodicly botable zam
9. pimish wams fons rels
10. dalably zinned verless bons
11. dir volably nopped fodish
12. dapped pimful wamently fonned
13. fids dalfully verable bons
14. vadded volic nops botably
15. dapful pims venally wamable
16. dapsome somest fid zinful
17. fem larless vads dir
18. botted dapped pimless vens
19. wammed fonly relful venfully
20. zins bonned femable larred
21. dirably volicly nopically daps
22. vens wams fonably soms
23. zinful vers bonned larishly
24. volled napary botted zam
25. venned wamously fonful rel
26. dalled zinary vers bonfully
27. larful dirless vols nopably
28. zamessly dapably venary wam
29. relled fidlessly dalful zin
30. bonnest femest lar vadable
31. fod botless zams dapfully
32. wamlessly relful fon dalishly
33. zi vers bonful fems
34. dirful nop was when
35. dapic pims venned wamly
36. fidary dals zinned verlessly
37. dirred vols nopishly botted
38. pimful vens wammed fonfully
39. dalful verless bons femable
40. dir volfully nopable bot
41. pimful venlessly fonned relently
42. dalfully zins verred bon
43. femmed larless dirred nopively
44. botted daplessly pims venned
45. relful soms dals zins

RECOGNITION OF LINGUISTIC STRUCTURES: FORM B

This is a test to see how well you recognize the way words in our language work in sentences. You will find, however, that many of the "words" you meet in this test are really nonsense words. Don't spend time trying to understand what these words mean, because they don't really mean anything. Here are a few examples of these words:

bon femable pimmed verfully wams

Sometimes these nonsense words have endings such as able, ed, ly, or s added to them. Sometimes they do not.

You have a test paper and an answer sheet. Write your name in the blank on the answer sheet. DO NOT WRITE ON THE TEST PAPER. Each question on the test paper consists of two sentences and a set of four words to choose your answer from. You are to choose the word that will fit into the blank in the second sentence. Choose the word that sounds best to you. For each question you will find the same four answers on your test paper and on your answer sheet. Underline the correct word on the answer sheet. DO NOT MAKE ANY MARKS ON THE TEST PAPER.

Here is an example question without nonsense words.

Example 1: The hungry boys lifted the logs, and the girls quickly lighted the fire.

Soon, the _____ was burning merrily.

hungry lifted quickly fire

The right answer is fire. Fire is the word that fits into the blank of the second sentence. The word fire is underlined on youranswer sheet.

Here is another example, this time with nonsense words.

Example 2: A bonish dal femmed larfully.

I relled the _____verlessly.

bonish dal femmed larfully

The right answer is dal. Underline dal on your answer sheet.

When your teacher says,"Go," turn the page and begin to work. Keep working until you have answered all 45 questions or until you are told to stop.

1. We zinned verously by the larful fon.
   We were fods, but near that _____ we were nops.
   zinned verously larful fon

2. The verful lars fonned fodfully.
   We nopped, but Don, pimmed by those _____, relled.
   verful lars fonned fodfully

3. I fid dapfully, and the vadable dals vol femly.
   They are very _____ dals, and I am their zin.
   fid dapfully vadable vol

4. We dapped, and vadous dals volled in the fem.
   When we were those by the _____, we were zins.
   dapped vadous volled fem

5. As I femmed zinly, the verful lars fonned fodfully.
   I femmed, but those _____ lars nopped.
   femmed zinly verful fodfully

6. Dallessly, John volably femmed the zinary ver.
   It was a really _____ ver because it was a lar.
   dallessly volably zinary ver

7. The larary, fonable fods nopped pimfully, but we didn't rel.
   Those fods have _____ botishly, too.
   fonable fods nopped pimfully

8. Al fidded the daps after he vadded the dalless vols.
   Before you can fid daps, you must vad the _____.
   fidded vadded dalless vols

9. The botent dirs were the bonable soms, vens, and wams.
I zam the most _____ dirs, but Bob fids them.
botent soms vens wams

10. They zammed us fidicly in that dapable vad.
Out of the _____, however, we could dal them.
zammed fidicly dapable vad

11. Don fonned, but Sue fodded noplessly in the pimful rel.
The _____, however, was a botish one.
fonned noplessly pimful rel

12. Wamably, zamicly, and fidically the daps vadded those dalent vols.
They were _____, but we were fems.
wamably zamicly fidically vols

13. Verful Jack larlessly fonned us, but he fodded us nopently. too.
In fact, before he fonned us, he _____ us pimishly.
verful larlessly fodded nopently

14. I bonned somlessly, although the venic wams zammed fidably.
In fact, those dapless wams zammed very _____.
bonned venic wams fidably

15. Ann was the dirrest, bonest som, and Joe was the venable wam.
She zammed, but I fidded for the _____.
dirrest bonest som venable

16. Larsome Jane was the fonest fod, but she was not nopful pim.
After all, only a _____ can rel.
larsome fonest fod zinful

17. We larlessly fonned the fodful nops after they pimmed us relishly.

They were most _____ nops.

larlessly fodful fon relishly

18. As I fidded the daps vadishly, the dals volled Joan.

Since those _____ were fems, they were not zins.

fidded daps vadishly volled

19. Two dapable vads dalled and volled femfully.

We zinned verishly whenever they dalled so _____.

dapable vads volled femfally

20. We dap the vadless dals volfully, but Tom fems them.

He zins them, too, although he does _____ vers.

dap vadless dals volfully

21. Jim pimmed the relary bots dirfully.

Then, while he bonned us, we _____ them.

pimmed relary bots dirfully

22. Some volish fems are zins, vers, or lars.

But we do not fon with such _____ ones.

volish zins vers lars

23. I femmed the zin verlessly as the lars fonned.

Although those _____ fonned fodly, they nopped.

femmed verlessly lars fonned

24. Don was a somful ven, but with the wamless zams he was one fidably.

Those _____ dapped us vadishly.

somful wamless zams fidably

25. We vadded the dalful vols fomently, but they zinned us verfully.
Yes, we vadded _____, but they zinned.
vadded dalful fomently zinned

26. The relary bots dirred bonlessly when I sommed.
They wonned me much too _____, and I wammed them zamlessly.
relary bots dirred bonlessly

27. Several dirful bons sommed venably.
In the , they _____ most wamishly.
dirful bons sommed venably

28. We were botable dirs, and bonish soms were venful wams.
I zammed the _____, and they fidded me.
botable bonish soms venful

29. When I was the verless lar, fonable Jim was the fodful nop.
Only the _____ can pim rellessly.
verless lar fonable fodful

30. Several zinic vers larred fonly and fodously.
We nopped the _____, but they didn't pim us.
zinic vers larred fonly

31. As the pims, the relful ones, botted us, we dirable bons sommed.
We were vens before they were relful _____.
pims botted dirable bonned

32. By the dir, we were the bons while they were the somful vens.
That _____ wammed, but we zammed.
dir bons somful vens

33. I was fidful dap of vad when he was dal.
Since he volled me from _____, I femmed him.
fidful vad was when

34. The relful bots dirred bonlessly, but they somishly vonned.
We wammed those _____ when they dirred us.
relful bots dirred somishly

35. We fodably nopped the pimless rels.
Those bonish _____ were dirful bons.
fodably nopped pimless rels

36. Jim was a botful dir, but the bonless soms were venable wams.
We can zam by _____.
botful bonless soms venable

37. Ann zins vers larably, and she fonfully fods them.
Tom noply pims vers, but he zins them _____, too.
vens wams fonably soms

38. Many pimful rels are botable dirs or bons.
As they som, the _____ rels ven wamlessly.
pimful rels dirs bons

39. When Joe was the bot of the dirless bons, I was his som.
I venned, and those _____ wapped zamishly.
bot dirless bons som

40. A few vadful dals are volably the femable zins.
These _____ are those which are vers.
vadful dals volably femable

41. As we relled botfully, the dirs bonned by the som.
In fact, they _____ most venently.
botfully dirs bonned som

42. We larred the fons fodfully, and Bill nopped pimable rels.
Then they botted us, while those _____ ones dirred him.
fons fodfully pimable rels

43. Before we zammed the fidary daps, we vadded them by the dal.
The _____ volently fems daps.
zammed fidary vadded dal

44. In the som we venably wammed some zamish fids.
There, by that _____, those fids were daps.
som venably wammed zamish

45. We wammed the zamless fids which dapped the vads dalively.
They volled, but those fids dapped quite _____.
wammed zamless dapped dalively

RECOGNITION OF LINGUISTIC STRUCTURES: FORM B ANSWER SHEET

Name: _____ Date: _____

age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ SChool _____

Example 1: hungry lifted quickly fire

Example 2: bonish dal femmed larfully

1. zinned verously larfyl fon
2. verful lars fonned fodfully
3. fid dapfully vadable vol
4. dapped vadous volled fem
5. femmed zinly verful fodfully
6. dallessly volably zinary ver
7. fonable fods nopped pimfully
8. fidded vadded dalless vols
9. botent soms vens wams
10. zammed fidicly dapable vad
11. fonned hoplessly pimful rel
12. wamably zamicly fidically vols
13. verful larlessly fodded nopently
14. bonned venic wams fidably
15. dirrest bonest som venable
16. larsome fonest fod zinful
17. larlessly fodful fon
18. fidded daps vadishly volled
19. dapable vads volled femfully
20. dap vadless dals vdfully
21. pimmed relary bots dirfully
22. volish zins vers lars
23. femmed verlessly lars fonned
24. somful wamless zams fidably
25. vadded dalful fementy zinned
26. relary bots dirred bonlessly
27. dirful bons sommed venably
28. botable bonish soms venful
29. verless lar fonable fodful
30. zinic vers larred fonly
31. pims botted dirable bonned
32. dir bons somful vens
33. fidful vad was when
34. relful bots dirred somishly
35. fodably nopped pimless rels
36. botful bonless soms venable
37. vens wams fonably soms
38. pimful rels dirs bons
39. bot dirless bons som
40. vadful dals volably femable
41. botfully dirs bonned som
42. fons fodfully pimable rels
43. zammed fidary vadded dal
44. som venably wammed zamish
45. wammed zamless dapped dalively

APPENDIX B

DIFFICULTY AND DISCRIMINATION INDICES FOR ALL ITEMS IN FORMS A AND B

P_H AND P_L VALUES, DIFFICULTY INDICES AND DISCRIMINATION INDICES FOR ALL ITEMS IN FORMS A AND B OF RLS

Form A					Form B				
Item	P_H	P_L	Difficulty Index	Discrimination Index	Corresponding Item	P_H	P_L	Diff. Index	Disc. Index
01	.805	.095	47	54	28	.778	-.018[a]	44[a]	72+[a]
02	.417	.047	34	35	04	.778	.030	45	61
03	.499	.071	38	36	29	.666	-.018	40	65+
04	.778	.071	46	54	09	.805	-.042	44	75+
05	.778	.047	45	56	19	.750	-.018	43	70+
06	.749	.214	48	35	07	.694	.030	43	59
07	.889	.000	47	82+	27	.917	.030	48	77
08	.472	.024	35	48	10	.528	.142	28	41
09	.805	.143	48	48	22	.861	-.042	47	80+
10	.889	.024	47	77	35	.917	-.261	41	86+
11	.417	.047	34	35	44	.750	-.167	36	70+
12	.667	.024	41	59	25	.555	.176	43	26
13	.305	-.095	24	46+	42	.472	-.068	32	54+
14	.611	.000	40	61+	14	.750	-.018	43	70+
15	.749	.190	48	38	40	.944	.080	51	70
16	.472	-.095	32	53+	16	.750	.030	44	61
17	.778	-.024	44	72+	39	.889	-.093	45	82+
18	.805	.071	47	57	08	.805	-.091	42	75+
19	.667	.024	42	60	05	.750	.127	47	46
20	.694	-.047	40	67+	31	.694	-.067	40	67+
21	.667	.000	41	65+	12	.805	-.139	41	75+
22	.472	.095	38	30	37	.583	.154	42	30
23	.722	-.071	41	69+	34	.917	.176	55	53
24	.472	-.190	27	53+	43	.694	-.117	38	67+
25	.694	-.095	38	67+	01	.805	-.067	43	75+

Form A					Form B				
Item	P_H	P_L	Difficulty Index	Discrimination Index	Corresponding Item	P_H	P_L	Diff. Index	Disc. Index
26	.889	.024	47	77	21	.917	.055	49	70
27	.861	-.071	45	80+	24	.778	-.115	41	72+
28	.417	-.119	28	51+	06	.361	-.042	36	48+
29	.694	-.190	36	67+	11	.917	-.127	45	86+
30	.528	-.024	36	56+	15	.528	.055	38	38
31	.611	-.095	36	61+	20	.472	-.261	24	53+
32	.417	.047	34	35	17	.639	.176	45	31
331	.139	.047	22	13	32	.583	-.139	34	60+
34	.472	-.119	38	53+	33	.611	.006	39	61+
35	.879	.079	49	62	30	.833	.006	45	77+
36	.596	-.139	34	61+	26	.694	-.164	37	67+
37	.936	-.042	47	89+	18	1.000[b]	.176	54[b]	76[b]
38	.596	-.111	35	61+	02	.722	.224	48	33
39	.312	-.012	28	44+	36	.722	.080	45	48
40	.511	-.136	32	55+	03	.750	-.018	43	70+
41	.823	-.062	44	76+	13	.694	-.067	40	67+
42	.709	-.062	40	68+	41	.889	.179	52	52
43	.624	-.136	35	62+	45	.666	-.191	35	65+
44	.879	-.086	45	81+	23	.917	-.115	45	86+
45	.539	.037	38	45	38	.583	.080	41	40

[a]Where the percentage of successes in the lower 27 percent of the sample is less than 1, Davis (Item-Analysis Data, p. 35) suggests altering the percentage to that which would be obtained if one-half of one testee had responded correctly. The discrimination index thus obtained is always an underestimate; therefore, the plus-sign superscript indicates that the true value is higher than the tabled index indicates. The difficulty index is obtained (ibid., pp. 35-36) by averaging the proportions of successes in the highest and lowest 27 percent and reading the value from a table Davis provides (ibid., p. 38).

[b]"If the percentage of successes in the highest 27 percent is above 99, the percentage used to enter the item-analysis chart may be altered arbitrarily to the percentage that would be obtained if one-half a testee had answered the item incorrectly," (ibid., p. 36).